

Interpretation of Select Hepatitis B Serologic Tests

HBsAg	anti-HBs	anti-HBc IgM	anti-HBc IgG	Interpretations	Comments
+	—	—	—	Early acute infection.	Patient is infectious; consider vaccination for susceptible household and sexual contacts.
+	—	+	+	Acute infection.	Patient is infectious; consider vaccination for susceptible household and sexual contacts.
+	—	—	+	Chronic infection.	Patient is infectious and should be evaluated for chronic liver disease; vaccinate susceptible household and sexual contacts.
—	+	+/-	+	Resolved infection.	Patient is immune.
—	—	+	—	"Window period" following acute infection.	Patient is not infectious.
—	—	—	+	1) Recovering from acute infection; or 2) Remote infection with loss of detectable anti-HBs; or 3) Remote infection with undetectable level of HBsAg; or 4) False positive test. Note: Vaccination does not produce anti-HBc.	Patient is non-infectious in most settings (household, sexual, needlestick).
—	+	—	—	1) Immune following vaccination; or 2) Resolved infection with loss of detectable anti-HBc.	Patient is immune.
—	—	—	—	Not infected.	Patient is susceptible to HBV infection and should be vaccinated.

Adapted from: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Atlanta, GA, 1999.